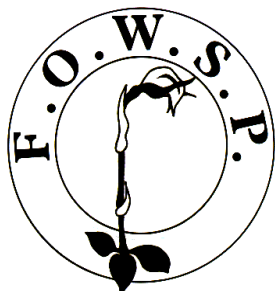


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C

Editor's Corner

Time has been elastic over the past two years, both dragging at times and yet seeming to speed past, especially when looking back. Probably exaggerated by the fact that the 2020 AGM had been held off until March 2021 so only 8 months had elapsed before our regular AGM time of November 2021. This is the first time I remember having such cold weather on the second Sunday of November.

Despite the inclement weather, a quorum of hardy FOWSPians, plus a few extra, attended the AGM.

Pages 2, 3 and 4 bring a synopsis of reports and photos from the occasion.

I am very happy to say that some unmasked smiles are back. Those of Taggers are seen with their stories, on pp. 5 and 8.

A smile from Frogland is seen beside snippets of news on p. 7, while in the nursery smiles are still mostly concealed as shown below on the same page.

I love that our customers are able to return, mostly unmasked as shown in the photo on this page.

Page 9 tells you what I recently learned about Murnong and also a friendly message from Ben and Margaret.

The rest is filled with some colour from my camera in November, most from west of the Grampians.

The final page contains a Victorian Christmas collage with holiday greetings to all FOWSPians. I am looking forward to hearing about summer conservation/nature activities from many of you.

Enjoy,

Linda Rogan



A rather shy young man and his platypus visit the nursery while Gray attends to his adult.

Deadline for February 2022 edition newsletter is

Friday 21 January 2022

contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:Linda.Rogan@fowsp.org.au)
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

FOWSP AGM 14 November 2021

Eighteen members were pleased to be able to meet at the Folly near the nursery at 5pm and to participate in the proceedings.

The eight committee members who have served since the 2020 AGM (held in March 2021) were all re-nominated so this year's committee is as follows:



Lyn listens while Artur is chairing.

Secretary – Artur Muchow
 Treasurer – Lyndy Gilbert
 Newsletter Editor – Linda Rogan
 Committee members – Gray Ardern, Kelvin Watkins, Jeff Cranston, Lynda Chambers & Lyn Moore.

Highlights from reports including the Ranger's Report by Phil Rance, 'Year in Review' by Gray Ardern, Josh Revell's

Nursery Report (read by Gray Ardern) are found below.



Above: Jan, Lisa, Carolyn, Don and Austin
 Below: Kelvin, Austin, Lynda and Gray

Year in Review presented by Gray

Firstly we thank Parks Victoria for allowing us to play a part in making Warrandyte State Park [and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Link] the priceless asset that means so much to all of us. We thank Faye Williams, our Area Chief Ranger, and closer to home, Warren Murphy, the Warrandyte Team Leader. Without the click and collect sales, we would certainly have found ourselves in a worrying financial position - not to mention the outright waste of thousands of valuable plants. A third value has been the joy and purpose that these plants have given our members and customers during the bleak days of lockdown.

We also thank Warren's hard-working team of Rangers, especially Phil Rance, Cam Beardsell, and the invaluable Col Brommley. We particularly thank Phil, our Contact Ranger, who always makes time for us, even though he clearly already has more than enough to do.

This is going to be a short report – firstly because it is only eight months since the last AGM, and secondly because our activities have been severely curtailed by a certain virus; but while I'm expressing the Committee's thanks, I turn our attention to our staff.

I'm going to get into trouble for saying complimentary things about our excessively modest Nursery Manager, but here goes:

Countless thankless tasks fall to the obliging and uncomplaining Josh: Who but Josh keeps track of the life-cycle of the hundreds of species of plants we propagate? Who but Josh is able to predict the precise moment to harvest the seeds of all those species and get out there to collect them?

All our volunteers and customers receive Josh's full and courteous attention - it is a rare quality to combine knowledge with patience and the ability to communicate well.

Our Nursery Assistant, Michelle, is currently working from home, but we can't wait to have her back at the Nursery. She is quite incredibly organised, efficient, dedicated and knowledgeable – and I can tell you, from having worked with her for over a year: a delightfully warm and generous colleague.

In past years I've thanked members of the Committee for their various valuable contributions, but as I thought about it, I suddenly realised that since this report is on behalf of the Committee, there's something rather silly about the Committee thanking itself - especially as you will already be aware of all that each of its members contributes.

Thanking people is in itself a thankless task because one is bound to neglect to give all the thanks that are due – however I can assure you that we are very grateful for all the help we've had this year. We couldn't have had such a successful year without every single one of your contributions.



Nursery Report read by Gray

Josh wants to thank all who volunteered this year and cooperated with the rostering system which worked well.

The 'click and collect' sales during times of restrictions was also very successful - it may continue in a lesser form next year.

Melbourne water capital works have placed several large plant orders for next year.

This year the nursery successfully grew 38 extremely rare *Glycine latrobiana* for the recovery project. We have a new roof over the orchids which is enabling more control of watering these special plants

Thanks to the builders, repairers, waterers and everyone else who quietly contributed over the year. Josh wants to reinforce the thanks already expressed to Phil for 'Tagging' and Michelle and Gray for keeping 'click and collect going' and Col for keeping the pump going as well as others who have contributed quietly in many ways.

Rangers' report presented by Phil

Phil's informative report reminded us of what a busy year the rangers have had under the challenges of Covid 19. This included increased visitation generally and locally Mt Lofty, Pound Bend and Jumping Creek, and more remote sites. Although some problems were seen with dogs in no dog areas and additional illegal mountain bike tracks, most of the visitors were well behaved.

Severe storm damage has also required hours of clean up work and seems to be becoming an increasingly frequent event.

Pest plant programs included the Peri-urban Weed Management initiative, Good Neighbours Programs, blackberry control and others as well as the in-house weed program.

Pest animal programs included control of rabbits (annual), foxes and deer. Equally important is the continuation of biodiversity fence construction all protecting incredibly rare plants and veg types including many listed plants. Three of the fences are 1 ha in size.

Environmental /threatened species programs included Nillimbik Council's forest health monitoring program which aims to record the extent of the white-throated nightjars, Melbourne Water funded southern toadlet research program as well as other in-house monitoring.

Exciting results are being seen with the orchid recovery program.

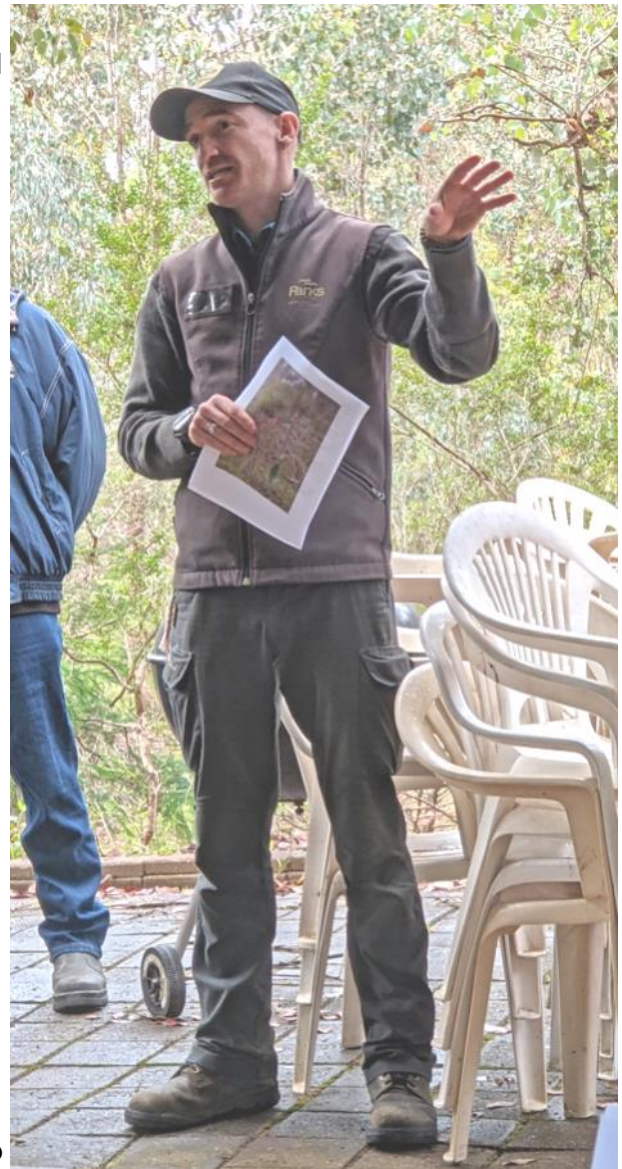
Notably *Caladenia oenochila* the wine-lipped spider orchid post-burn at Dodds St, St Andrews, where there have been large increases in population with 350 flowering plants. This is the world's largest population of this orchid. Pollination, natural and by hand, has resulted in success for roughly 200 plants.

Caladenia rosella is also increasing in numbers thanks to efforts and protection in two locations. These are moving toward the goal of achieving a genetically healthy and self-sustaining population. This requires at least - 200 individuals at a single site.

Pterostylis plumosa is another orchid of concern with at least three locations monitored where most have been pollinated.

Cam's 20 year review of the flora of Warrandyte - work started by Cathy Willis, Pat Coupar and David Van Bockel and ultimately a long-term collaboration - is in progress. A critically endangered short list is cur-

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

rently being reviewed by Cam, myself and Josh. This will guide what management actions we can put into place such as collecting seed, cuttings or individual plants and building fences.

FOWSP-related grants included Fourth Hill Betton Track where FOWSP has assisted with weed control and enrichment planting and fences to protect *Olearia* & *Craspedia* species at Fourth Hill.

Planned burning has been carried out at Fidler Gully and Pindari and is scheduled as ecological burns in newly fenced areas.

Volunteers

It was a hard year for all. However, we still managed seven ranger-led TAGs and numerous autonomous TAGS in a very interrupted year. Once again, the main focus was on high conservation value work and sites, a lot of which FOWSP have historically been involved in. Also focused on locally rare species being planted or protected.

In closing, I'd like to say thanks both personally and on behalf of PV for:

- Approximately 1500 hours contributed
- Several hundred FOWSP-grown plants installed in the park – some locally rare and threatened
- Joint managing projects in the park
- Applying for grants
- Invaluable community engagement and representation.



The Folly provided a welcome windbreak at our AGM for 2021. It's wonderful to gather again in these beautiful surrounds. Ranger Phil, Jeff, Lyndy and Ken, Peter and just the corner of Linda's tea mug.

FOWSP TAG 2021 Program				Update	27/11/2021	Ranger TAGs
Difficulty Ratings						
Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.						
Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.						
Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.						
Date	Location	Lead	Lead/Task	Difficulty rating	Notes/Alternative	
2/12/2021	Betton Fence	ARTUR	Woody weeds, sign erection	Easy		
9/12/2021	Nilja / Longridge Farm	DON	Agapanthicide, blackberry, woody weeds	Easy		
16/12/2021	Nursery, Frogland	JOSH	General weeding, maintenance	Easy	Followed by FOWSP Christmas	
23/12/2021	TBA - Walert Creek and/or Endeavour Bank	DON	Maintenance of plantings, clearing of exclosures.	Moderate/Easy		
					Christmas 25/12	

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. Please contact Gray on 0418 190 261 before turning up.

Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

Please note TAGS and activities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2021		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager Josh Revell Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 email nursery@fowsp.org.au
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer and Membership	Park Office 03 8427 2132
Linda Rogan	0491 112 692 editor@fowsp.org.au	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian Gloria Moore 0402 285005
		Facebook Coordinator	Carolyn Noel 0409 901441
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
Lynda Chambers	0466 274421 phenologist@gmail.com		Manningham Council Rep Cathy Willis 0427 660 651
Lyn Moore	0409 683 041 lynm333g@gmail.com	Wildlife rescue Victoria https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/contact-us	Webmaster Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647 legality@bigpond.com		FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lyn Moore.

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 11 January 2022
Venue:	Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

Taggers are smiling again—at Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve...

Enjoying our recent release from lockdowns, Ranger Phil took a small group to this reserve for a morning of removing woody weeds, especially pittosporum and the introduced Cassinia.

This reserve has a range of rare species, and Phil particularly showed us the endangered *Platylobium infecundum* and distinguished it from its more common cousin *Platylobium montanum*.

Seen enjoying the sunshine as well are Robyn, Jan, Ranger Phil and David (photo right).



FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below.

Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12.30 midday.

At present volunteers at the nursery are as rostered only.

Email nursery@fowsp.org.au
to be include in the roster.

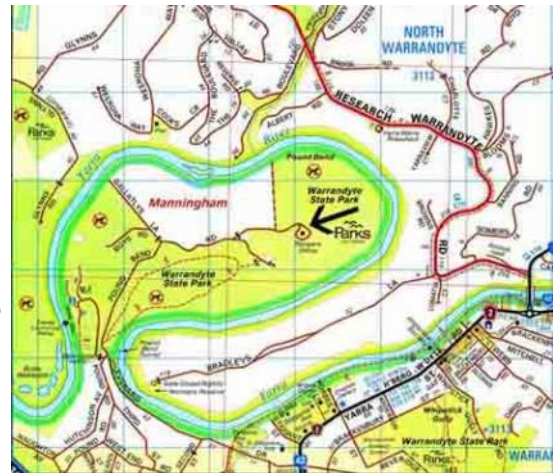
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales at present only as notified via email.

Closed Christmas and New Years days.

Also closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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Check out webinars from Nillumbik Council



<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Events-activities-and-education/When-you-want-webinars>

Current examples include:

Wild Pollinator Count with Luis Mata and Garden Insects with Denis Crawford

Manningham Council encourages FOWSPians to receive ENews

We aim to keep people informed of events and news happening in and around Manningham for all things relevant to the natural environment and sustainability. The ENews plans to carry a lot of interesting & relevant Green Wedge news. To sign up to receive the Manningham environment newsletter (via email) go to <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/environment-and-sustainability>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Subscribe to our environmental newsletter' arrow and a box will open for you to add your name and email. Click on the 'What's on...' box to sign up for events.

There are two December bushwalks which are organised by the Koonung Bushwalking Club for interested participants:

Sugarloaf Reserve Park bushwalk Saturday 11 December 2021, 9.00

Wilhelmina Falls bushwalk Saturday 18 December 2021, 9.00

For further information or to join the walk, please contact secretary@koonungbushwalkingclub.org.au.



Volunteers return to Frogland

Nothing has given me more pleasure recently than getting back into Frogland for some serious work.

Marie, new volunteer Christine and myself have found that although the overall appearance of Frogland is good and many of our indigenous plants are thriving, the weeds have also relished the wetter spring weather. Major weeds we are currently attacking are sweet vernal and vulpia grasses and plantain.



The fact that the soil has remained moist has meant we have also been able to carry out some late spring planting. This has included *Craspedia variabilis* (photo left) and *Pimelea humilis* (in Linda's hand at right). It was pleasing to find the some previously planted *Craspedia* was still in bloom.



Thanks to Christine for this photo with my phone.

And in the nursery

Volunteers are returning on a rostered, socially distanced basis. Photo right shows Marie who has returned from working in Frogland and Alwynne and Kay who spent the morning on propagation tasks.

To join in the roster, email nursery@fowsp.org.au

There is also plenty of space for more workers in Frogland.





FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out in the past. FOWSP committee has decided to delay rostering our trailer at the market until April 2022.



The Warrandyte market is normally held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to man/woman the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour.

If you are interested in being on the market roster
please contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Next market dates are: Saturdays, 2 April 2022, 7 May 2022

...and smiling again at Mullum Mullum link track and Naughton Avenue

This area, near Beckett Road, was planted some years ago by the TAG, but it has suffered from significant weed growth and our inability to give it sufficient attention, especially over the past two years.

A very small group selected a manageable area and made great progress, revealing a high success rate with the *Acacia genistifolia*, *Lomandra*, *Goodenia*, *Themeda* sp. and others previously planted.

A number of passers-by made complimentary remarks about our efforts (but none joined us!)



David and Robyn making a start...



...and happy with a successful day.

Naughton Avenue is another area that has suffered from 2 years of lack of attention. This area includes the upper slope towards the river 'cliffs'.

Some very large *Pittosporum* had taken hold, which were attacked with gusto by the group - Judith, Robyn, David, Brian and Don, as well as lilies, thistles, and some of the more isolated patches of rampant succulents.

Thanks to Don for the photos and report.

Catching up with Murnong

Until recently I had thought that Murnong equaled *Microseris lanceolata*. Recently I have had my yam daisy ID corrected to *Microseris walteri*. I decided to look into this further. A friend pointed out that a useful tool for identifying *M. walteri*, which is the ‘tasty’ one, is by looking at a single dried seed head (shown in photo below) . For *M. walteri* it is noticeably wider at the base. Neville Walsh has helpfully made up a table to point out other differences between the three species in Victoria.

I still wonder whether or not all three species were called Murnong or only the palatable one? It appears likely from his article that this was the case .



If your eyes are sharp you will see a tiny greenish native bee in the Murnong flower on the left. I think this is a *Homalictus* sp.

Linda Rogan

Feature	<i>M. walteri</i>	<i>M. lanceolata</i>	<i>M. scapigera</i>
Roots	single fleshy root expanding to a solitary, napiform to narrow-ellipsoid or narrow-ovoid, annually replaced tuber	several fleshy roots, cylindrical to long-tapered, branching just below ground-level	several cylindrical or long-tapered, usually branched shortly below leaves
Fruit (Capsela)	usually less than 7mm long	usually less than 7mm long	mostly 7–10 mm long
Pappus bristles	c. 10 mm long, 0.5–1.3mm wide at base	10–20 mm long, c. 0.3–0.5 mm wide at base	30–66 mm long
Joined petals (Ligule)	usually more than 15mm long	usually more than 15mm long	up to 12mm long
Origin	lowlands of temperate southern WA, SA, NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania	rarely on basalt soils; alpine and subalpine NSW, ACT and Victoria	mostly from basalt plains of western Victoria and elevated sites in Tasmania
Taste of roots	sweet-tasting, both raw and cooked	bitter, slightly fibrous and not particularly palatable	slightly fibrous, and slightly, but tolerably bitter

Reference:
Walsh, Neville (2016). "A name for Murnong (Microseris: Asteraceae: Cichorioideae)"

Message from Ben and Margaret

During a recent chat with Ben about various matters, including native bees, I learned the following:

- * They are trying out a bee home from Aldi
- * Both are still alive and kicking
- * They enjoy watching Pardalotes in their garden
- * This garden has been 35 years in the making and now has created a nice friable soil
- * The garden includes various native and indigenous plants and trees
- * They send their greetings to FOWSPians

Many will remember Ben’s years of writing ‘I SPY’ for the newsletter.



Diuris punctata group

Once purple Diuris were seen in their thousands across the western plains of Victoria and elsewhere in the state.

These were photographed in a small remnant area on private land west of the Grampians on 9 November 2021 during a most welcome outing with the Orchid Society terrestrial interest group. See other photos from this trip on the next page.

The Christmas collage on the final page is composed of *Prostanthera lasianthos* the Victorian Christmas bush, which is blooming on cue in my garden. It is crowned by the bright underside of *Austracantha minax* the Christmas jewel spider. This intriguing spider, which is much smaller than the collage indicates, is very commonly seen in the bush this time of year. The decorations are contributed by some of our colourful leaf beetles, *Paropsisterna octolineata* with red and black stripes and the green *Paropsides calypso* the lilly-pilly beetle.

Linda Rogan

Are your subs due??

Please check the message on the email you receive with the newsletter link . If they are due soon a message such as below will be included:

‘Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on . Please click on the link below to re-new your Membership.

http://fowsp.org.au/membership.php?member_id=&membership_renewal=Yes
Of course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard.’

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no.

Email

.....



Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15

Newsletter by email or pick-up at the nursery.

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

Email photo bonus page

The top four are from along the Henty

Highway west of the Grampians. Clockwise:
A *Backhousia* (spider) sp. on *Nymphoides* sp.
Azure sun orchid *Thelymitra azurea*
Purple donkey orchids *Diuris punctata*
group
Satin-green forester moth *Pollanisus*...



...and bottom right, a distant pair of musk lori-keets in the sun during my morning walk in Bri-ar Hill. Sorry, only a phone photo could be taken but I love seeing these less common lori-keets. *Linda Rogan*



Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows: editor@fowsp.org.au



Happy holiday wishes to all FOWSPians
come with this Christmas collage